

Bexhill Charter Trustees
Centenary of the Borough Coat of Arms
1907 ~ 2007



*Together with details of the
Civic Regalia and Plate
held by the Trustees and
belonging to the Town*

Researched and Compiled by:

**David M. Dyer, BSc(Hons), DipSP&C, DMS
February 2007**



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Centenary of the Borough Coat of Arms 1907 – 2007

*together with details of the Civic Regalia
and Plate held by the Bexhill Charter
Trustees and belonging to the Town*



This booklet has been produced to commemorate the centenary of the receipt by Bexhill Borough of its official Coat of Arms in 1907. In addition, it sets out to provide a comprehensive record and history of the many and varied items of Civic Regalia and Plate held by the Bexhill Charter Trustees.

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**Produced by:-
Bexhill Charter Trustees**

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Centenary of the Borough Coat of Arms: 1907~2007

Foreword by the Town Mayor of Bexhill



"It gives me great pleasure to write the foreword to this booklet marking the 'Centenary Year of the granting of Bexhill Borough's official Coat of Arms'.

The wealth of information and detailed research make this a valuable original resource for anyone with an interest in the recent history of Bexhill-on-Sea.

Civic heritage is very important for the identity and tradition of a town, and needs to be correctly recorded. I hope you, too, will agree and congratulate the author on his endeavours in making this booklet both interesting and enjoyable to read."

Cllr. Eric A. P. Armstrong
Bexhill Town Mayor, 2006/07

Background to the Author



"For the last 22 years, aside from my official duties with Rother District Council, I have been the "unofficial" custodian of the many items of Charter Trustees regalia. As such, I developed a deep interest in this subject and, over the years, have gained much knowledge about many of the items. However, other than the main regalia being on show at civic occasions and various items being displayed at the Town Hall, the remainder is kept stored away and rarely, if ever, seen by the public.

Having recently retired, I was concerned not only that my knowledge would go with me but also that few people, even the Charter Trustees themselves, know exactly what the regalia consists of, nor its history. In addition, other than references to the main regalia items, ie Mace, Mayor's Chain etc, there has never been any published history covering this subject. I have therefore taken the opportunity to undertake further research and address this deficiency. I hope that this booklet proves to be of interest to all, particularly in 2007, the Centenary Year of the granting of Bexhill Borough's official Coat of Arms."

David M. Dyer, BSc(Hons), DipSP&C, DMS
Author and Researcher.

The Charter Trustees of Bexhill

Background to the Charter Trustees

Bexhill was established as a Charter Trustee town on 1st April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972. In the 1974 local government reorganisation, Boroughs were abolished and towns were in danger of losing their Mayor. Charter Trustees were set up to maintain the continuity of a town's Charter and to retain the position of Mayor, until such time as a parish council was established or a successor borough was appointed. Locally, the administrative areas covered by Bexhill Borough, Battle Rural and Rye Borough Councils were amalgamated and Rother District Council was created. Whilst new Districts had the option of petitioning for Borough status, this Council decided against it and the Charter Trustees of Bexhill were thus established. Although many of the original towns have since opted for Parish status or have been taken over by successor boroughs, Bexhill is now one of only fifteen remaining towns to retain its Charter Trustee status.

Functions of the Charter Trustees

The functions of Charter Trustees are limited to ceremonial activities such as the election of a Mayor and other functions depending on local customs and laws. Their task is to maintain the traditions and functions of the Mayor and to hold historic and ceremonial property, but not land or buildings. Property includes the Charter, insignia and any items of regalia. The role of the Mayor is very important. In essence, the Mayor is an ambassador for the Town and undertakes hundreds of functions of public relations and of a charitable nature during a year of office. Examples of such activity include the opening of new establishments and supporting local groups and organisations, which have requested his or her presence to add 'substance' to the occasion.

The Trustees

Bexhill Charter Trustees are those elected Rother District Councillors who represent Wards within the area of the former Borough. There are nine Wards in the former Borough, each electing two councillors, and therefore eighteen Charter Trustees. Each May, at the Annual Meeting, a new "Town Mayor" is elected and presented with the official Chain of Office. This must be worn to all civic functions and other events held within the Borough area where the Mayor is appearing in an official capacity.

Finance

Financially, the Bexhill Charter Trustees are treated along similar lines to the Parish Councils. However, whilst Parish Councils raise their precepts against their specific Parish area only, the Charter Trustees raise their precept on the whole of the Council Taxpayers of Bexhill and this is collected by the District Council on their behalf. All such money must be spent and accounted for in the same way as for any other Council.

Bexhill's Coat of Arms

Historical Background

The former Urban District of Bexhill was elevated to Borough status in 1902 under the Charter of Incorporation and subsequently enjoyed the benefits of having a Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors. A re-enactment of the receipt of the Charter took place in 2002 to mark this centenary. However, the grant of the Coat of Arms for Bexhill was not made until 1907 and was achieved at a cost to the Town of £70. The Bexhill Chronicle in February 1907 announced the arrival of the Patent for Bexhill's new Coat of Arms in the following terms.

"The patent for the Town Arms of Bexhill has at last been received by the Corporation from the Herald's College. It is a formidable looking document in the form of a vellum roll, with three huge seals at the base, and it arrived safely at the Town Hall encased in a strong wooden box. Emblazoned in the top left-hand corner of the patent are the arms of the Borough of Bexhill, which bear the motto, "Sol et salubritas". On the right are the arms of the three heralds whose seals and signatures grace the foot of the document, viz, Sir Alfred Scott Scott-Gatty, K.C.V.O., Mr G E. Cokayne and Mr W.H.Weldon and in the left margin are two stamps of the value of £5 each. The unwieldy seals are hidden from the vulgar gaze in ornamental brass boxes and the whole concern bears an air of importance befitting its exalted mission".

The Arms of Bexhill

This representation of the Coat of Arms is taken from the Bexhill Shield (Ref83), which is described later.

The Motto

"Sol et Salubritas"

Whilst there are several possible interpretations for this, the accepted translation is: -

"Sun and Health"



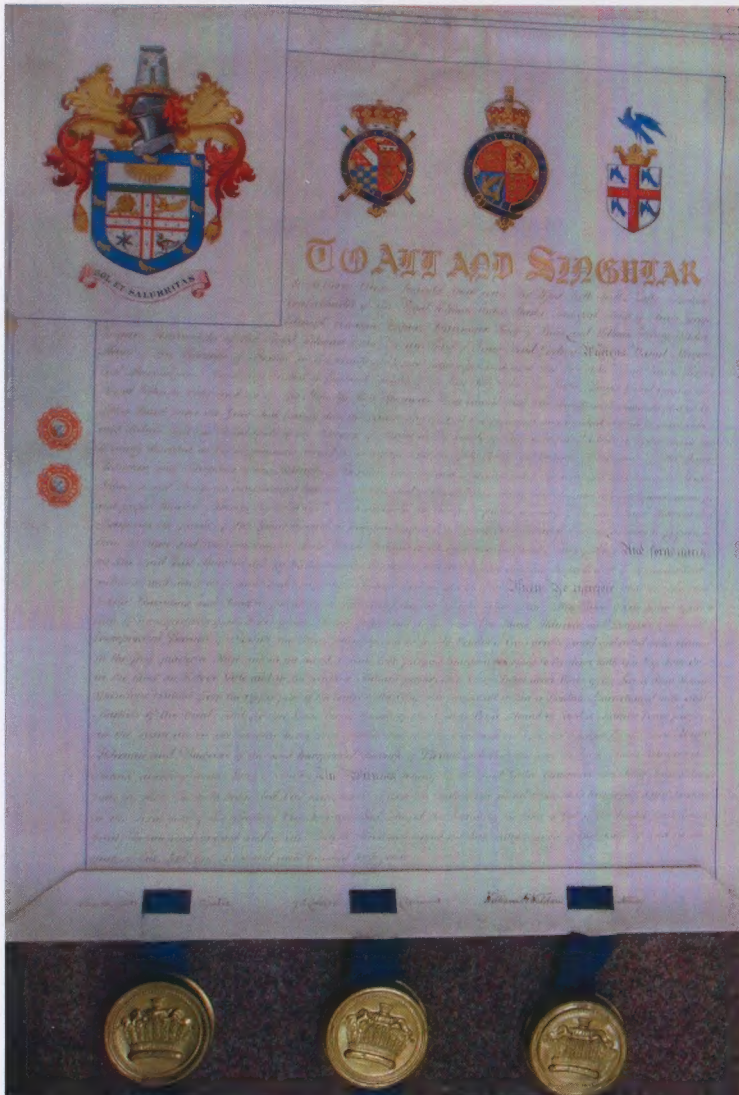
Heraldic Description

The heraldic description is as follows:

"Ermine a cross double parted and fretted Gules between, in the first quarter a mitre, and in the second a demi-lion passant guardant conjoined to the demi-hulk of a ship both Or, in the third an Estoile Sable, and in the fourth a Mallard proper, on a Chief Argent above waves of the sea, a demi-sun in splendour issuant from the upper part of the centre of the Chief also proper, all within a Bordure Azure charged with eight Martlets of the third, and for a Crest on a Wreath of the Colours on a Mound of Sand a Martello Tower proper."

Bexhill's Coat of Arms

Grant of Arms Document (Ref 61)



This is the original Parchment document with the Order of Garter King of Arms, which describes the Arms given to the Borough of Bexhill and illustrates them in full colour. It bears the signatures and seals of the three Heralds, these being Garter, Clarenceaux and Norrow, all Kings of Arms.

Bexhill's Coat of Arms

Grant of Arms Document (Ref 61) - Continued



The box it came in

As was recorded in the Bexhill Chronicle, the Grant of Arms document was delivered to the Town Hall "encased in a strong wooden box". Despite its slightly battered appearance, the box is still as strong and impressive as it was on the day it arrived.



The seals that authenticate it

Shown above are the three wax seals of the individual Kings of Arms, each stamped and contained within their own seal cases, which authenticate the Grant of Arms.



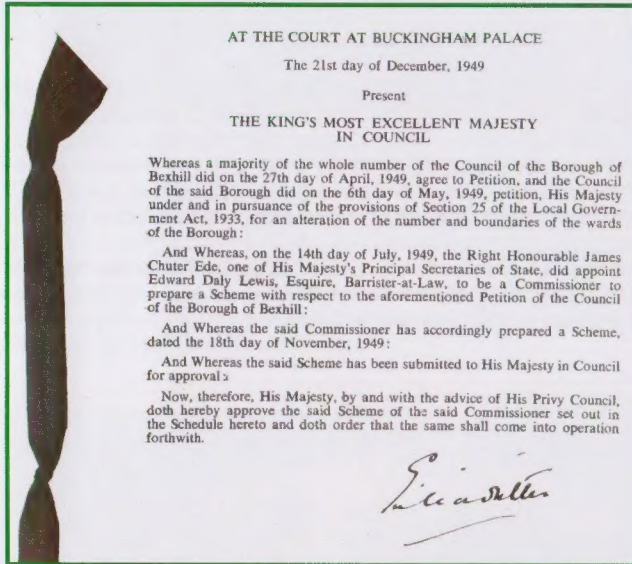
The Arms of the three Heralds

This picture gives a clearer view of the coats of arms of the three Heralds whose seals and signatures grace the foot of the document.

The 1949 Boundary Changes

Boundary Changes Scheme Consent Order (Ref 90)

This document gives Royal Consent in 1949 to the changes both in the number and boundaries of the five Wards, which had been in existence since the Borough was incorporated in 1902.



Historical note - The growth of the Town since Incorporation had resulted in areas of very uneven representation by Councillors. In April 1949, the Council agreed to petition the King for an alteration both in the numbers and the boundaries of the Wards of the Borough. Royal Consent was finally given by the above document and the elections held in May 1950 were the first under the Scheme.

The 1949 Boundary changes were the first to have taken place since the Borough was incorporated in 1902. The main changes were as follows.

1. An increase in the number of wards from five to six with each ward electing three Councillors
2. The creation of Sidley as a new ward on its own
3. A reduction from six to three in the number of Councillors representing Central Ward

The number of Councillors remained at eighteen but these were initially apportioned amongst the revised wards in accordance with the details set out in the Royal Consent.

Civic Regalia

Civic Regalia

This section of the book gives a description of the main items of Civic Regalia, which are used at formal meetings and functions of the Charter Trustees. The most obvious symbols of authority for the Mayor are the Mace and the Mayor's Chain of Office. In addition, there are other badges, not only for the Mayor but also for the Deputy Mayor and the Mayoress.

The Town Mayor of Bexhill is chosen each year at the Annual Meeting of the Charter Trustees. The Mayor has a chain of office that may be worn to all events in Bexhill. However, when visiting other towns in an official capacity, it is customary for the Mayor to ask whether or not the chain of office may be worn in that town. The Mayoress has a chain of office that is worn on Mayoral engagements with the Mayor or when the Mayoress attends a function alone.

The robes of office are worn only on civic occasions when the Mace is carried by the Macebearer immediately before the Mayor, who then leads the Charter Trustees and any other dignitaries in procession.

A history of the Mace and its significance

(a) Modern times

Originally, the mace was a weapon, effectively a wooden club, larger and heavier at one end. Warrior bishops carried it into battle instead of the sword, in order to conform to the canonical rule forbidding the shedding of blood by members of the clergy. During medieval times, the Royal '*Serjeants-at-Arms*' were distinguished by their power of arrest without a warrant. To an increasing extent, their Maces became their emblems of authority. They were stamped with the Royal Arms; and in an age in which few men could read or write, the '*Serjeants*' effected their arrests by showing their Maces and not by producing any form of written warrant.

The evolution of maces from weapons of war to symbolic representations has seen the flanged head decrease in size into an ornamental bracket, while the butt end, which carried the Royal Arms, has expanded to accommodate larger and more ornate Royal Arms and an arched crown surmounted by an orb and cross. As a result of the expansion of the butt end, maces began to be carried upside down with the crown uppermost.

(b) Ancient times

Many examples of ornamental stone maces have been found and are displayed in museums. This means that the actual origins of the mace come from pre-historic times.

Civic Regalia

Bexhill Town Mace (Ref 8)



The mace is described in the following terms. It has a silver gilt head with enamelled crest; a wood shaft with silver gilt mounts and is 3ft 6ins in length. The bulb is ornamented with the Arms of the Borough in proper heraldic enamels surmounted by sprays of oak and laurels connected by ornaments of dolphins, tridents and seaweed, beautifully chased. The whole is surmounted by the Imperial Crown and the full Arms of His Majesty, the King (Edward VII). The supports holding the bulb of the mace are excellent specimens of the silversmith's art and represent sea horses.



This photograph gives a clearer view of the head of the mace. The enamel badge sustained damage many years ago as can be seen. However this was later repaired and the enamel badge has been replaced by a replica.

Historical note -The Mace is the symbol not only of the Council's authority but also of royal authority. On all formal Council and Civic occasions, it is carried by the Mace Bearer, who precedes the Town Mayor in any procession. Mr George Vale, Chairman of the Bexhill Association, presented it to the Corporation on 15th October 1906, at the same occasion as the presentation of the Mayor's Chain. The cost was met by public subscription organised by the Bexhill Association "*to complete the mayoral insignia*" and also by using surplus funds from that year's Whit Monday Horse Show, an annual event that had started in 1903.

Civic Regalia

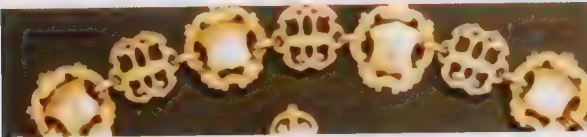


Mayor's Chain with Badge (Ref 1)

Engraved: *"Presented with the Mayoral Chain by the Rt. Hon. Thomas Baron Brassey - 15 October 1906"*

The 19 separate badges were engraved with the names of the Mayors from 1902/3 to 1926/7. (See appendix for details)

Historical note (1) - The magnificent Mayor's Chain with a matching Badge was designed and manufactured by Messrs Skinner & Co., 5/6 Orchard Street, London W1. A photograph of the mayoral badge and chain appeared in the Bexhill Chronicle the previous Saturday with the comment *"To be presented to the Council by Lord Brassey"*. This occasion, in fact, was the first time that he had appeared at a function under municipal auspices and it was noted that *"Lord Brassey arrived in a motorcar whilst Lady Brassey came in a carriage."*



It was decided at the Council meeting on December 15th 1924 that the continuation of additional links with each mayoralty should cease after the 25th year of Incorporation. Shown above are the 19 separate badges in the original chain, which were inscribed with the names of the Bexhill Mayors from 1902/3 to 1926/7. Also shown, is the centre link containing the Crown and cypher of King Edward VII, the King who granted the Charter.

Historical note (2) - The original Mayor's Chain was stolen at some time over the May Day Bank Holiday in 1993. Whilst this could have been 'stolen to order', it was probably stolen by an opportunist thief. There was hope for a while that it might even be returned anonymously, but this never happened. A new chain was eventually purchased from the insurance money. Whilst this was made to duplicate the original, the names of the 19 early Mayors were not re-inscribed. The annual Council meeting in May 1993 was the only year that the incoming Town Mayor was not presented with the Mayoral Chain.

Civic Regalia



Deputy Mayor's Badge (Ref 2)

This badge is used as the Deputy Mayor's badge. It is a silver and enamel badge of office with Coat of Arms and Mantling hung on a blue ribbon. It was presented by Dr Claude Pyecroft, who was Mayor of Bexhill in both 1949/50 and 1950/51, as is described in the following inscription:

"Presented by Dr Claude Pyecroft – Mayor of Bexhill – 1949-1951"



Mayoress's Badge (Ref 3)

The Mayoress's badge did not form part of the original regalia. This was later rectified and the Mayoress's chain was donated by the Bexhill Association 'subscribers' in 1925. A personal replica was given to the first wearer, Mrs R.C. Sewell, and returned by her to the Corporation at the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough in 1962 (Ref 6 below).

It is made of 18ct gold with an enamelled Badge and Mantling with a rose diamond set surround.



Mayor's Badge (Ref 4)

This badge is used as the Mayor's badge on the occasions when the Mayor attends a function outside of the Borough, which precludes the wearing of the Mayoral Chain. It is a silver gilt and enamel badge on a blue ribbon and was presented to the Council as part of the 1962/63 Charter Year. The inscription reads:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by the British South Africa Company, 23rd July 1963, Mayor E.H. Corke esq, JP."

Civic Regalia

Historical note – In the early years of the Borough, all Mayors and Mayoresses were presented with gold replica badges at the conclusion of their terms of Office. This practice was ceased at some later time (probably after the 25th year of Incorporation, 1926/27). However, in September 1964, this practice was resurrected and the Council agreed to purchase 9 carat yellow and white gold replica badges to present to all future Mayors and Mayoresses at the conclusion of their first term of office together with all living past Mayors and Mayoresses.

5



Past Mayor's Badge (Ref 5)

This is described as a 15ct gold and enamel dress badge of Office with the Bexhill Coat of Arms and Mantling. It is currently used as the past Mayor's badge. The inscription reads:

"Borough of Bexhill, Councillor R. Cecil Sewell, JP Mayor 1925-25".

Historical note – This badge is the replica badge, which was presented to Councillor Cecil Sewell at the end of his Mayoralty in 1924/25. It was presented back to the Council by his widow, Mrs R.C.Sewell on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in 1962 following the appeal for gifts of municipal plate etc.



Past Mayoress' Badge (Ref 6)

This is described as a 15ct gold and enamel Badge of Office with the Bexhill Coat of Arms and Mantling on a gold fob pin. It is currently used as the past Mayoress's badge. There is no inscription.

Historical note – This is the replica badge, which was originally given to Mrs R.C.Sewell, the first wearer of the Mayoress's badge, after she had been Mayoress in 1924/25. It was presented back to the Council by Mrs R.C.Sewell on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee in 1962.

Mayors of the Borough of Bexhill



The names of the many Mayors who have served their terms of Office are recorded on special display panels in the Town Hall. This board records all Mayors who served the Borough of Bexhill in the years prior to local government reorganisation in 1974. The list is as follows.

Mayors of Bexhill 1902/03 to 1973/74			
Year	Name	Year	Name
1902/03	Ebenezer Howard	1942/43	William Howard Hughes
1903/05	Gilbert Geo. Reginald, Earl De La Warr	1943/44	William Howard Hughes
1905/06	Daniel Mayer	1944/46	Ernest William Bowrey
1906/07	James Mackey Glover	1946/47	Samuel John Taylor
1907/08	Thomas Baron Brassey	1946/47	William Howard Hughes
1908/09	Hon Thos. Alnut Brassey	1947/49	William Howard Hughes
1909/11	John Alexander Paton	1949/51	Claude Pyecroft
1911/14	Daniel Mayer	1951/53	Gilbert Harry Goodwin
1914/16	Frank Bond	1953/54	Granville Boyle Coghlan
1916/18	Joseph Barker Wall	1954/56	Joyce Oliver Alexander
1918/20	George Herbert Gray	1956/58	Edgar Carter
1920/21	James Gibb	1958/60	John Baker
1921/22	Arthur George Wells	1960/61	Reginald Frank Botting
1922/23	Ronald Gibb, C.B.E.	1961/62	Frank Ernest Cooper
1923/24	Ernest William Bowrey	1962/63	Joyce Oliver Alexander
1924/25	Richard Cecil Sewell	1963/64	Eric Henry Corke
1925/26	Frank Bauser Bending	1964/65	Allan Sidney John Stevens
1927/27	Sir Ernest Birch, K.C.M.G.	1965/66	Ernest Thomas Robinson
1927/28	William Herbert Mullens, DL, JP	1966/67	Margaret Ethel Ackland
1928/30	Alexander Turner Laing	1967/68	John Baker
1930/32	Christina Isabella Meads	1968/69	Eric Trehearne Johnson
1932/35	Herbrand Edward Dundonald Brassey Sackville, Earl De La Warr	1969/70	William Arthur Sole
1935/36	Oscar Streigding CBE, DSO	1970/71	Donald Ashley Kimber
1936/42	William Nicolson Cuthbert, JP	1971/73	William George Sanson
1942/43	Frederick Foster Wimshurst	1973/74	Harold George Morgan

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts

The year 1962/63 was the Diamond Jubilee, the 60th anniversary, of the Borough of Bexhill. In January 1962 at the Tradesmen's Ball held in Sidley, the Mayor, Alderman F.E.Cooper, stated that he was *"appalled at the lack of history attached to our Borough. We are 60 years old yet we have virtually nothing in the way of municipal plate or other gifts to remind us of our age and status."* He then threw out a challenge to Mr Jack Marchant, Chairman of the Ball Committee, to set the ball rolling by presenting a cigar box or similar gift from the old folk of Sidley. In February 1962, the Mayor officially launched an appeal for gifts of plate to *"enable the services of hospitality and courtesy to be dispensed with that dignity which reflects credit on our town"*. The first gift of plate, which was donated to the Mayor, was a silver cigar box presented, in fact, by Mr Marchant on behalf of Sidley Community Association.

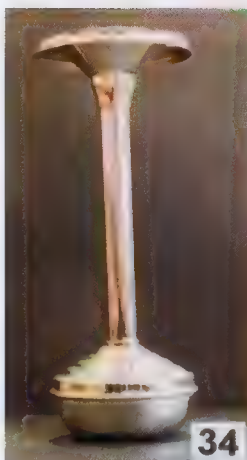
In April 1962, this appeal was broadened to enable anyone in the town to make a contribution including cash donations for which the minimum amount would be one shilling (*equivalent to five pence*). It was therefore decided to call this *"The Mayor's Parlour Plate Shilling Fund"*. The Bexhill-on-Sea Observer undertook to publicise the Mayor's appeal for cash donations *"in any multiples of shillings"* towards the purchase of plate or other articles needed to equip the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall to the standard of dignity it should have. By contributing in this way, everyone in the town would have the opportunity to be associated with the Diamond Jubilee year of the Borough. The wording of both Appeal letters published in the Bexhill Observer is shown at the end of this section on page 25.

Unfortunately, the appeal for 'shillings' from members of the public was not as successful as the appeal for 'plate' had been and the idea of handing over hard-earned money to the Mayor's Parlour (*For 'Mayor's Parlour', read 'Town Hall'*) was not well received. Irrespective of this, in September 1962, the Council agreed to spend £250 on furnishings for the Parlour and a sub-Committee was set up to agree the details. No record appears in the Bexhill-on-Sea Observer of the items of 'plate', which were donated by members of the public. However, it is probable that some of the items that appear in the 'Other Civic and Historic Items' section of this booklet, where neither the donor nor the occasion have been identified, should really be included here.

On 23rd May 1962, the mayoralty of Alderman F. Cooper came to an end with the succession of Councillor Mrs J. Alexander and the Bexhill Observer editorial contained the following comments.

"Outside of the Council Chamber, it [the municipal year] will be remembered largely for the Mayor's appeal for gifts of plate to add some much-needed dignity to the furnishings and equipment of the Mayor's Parlour, and the Mayor is to be congratulated on the very considerable success of his approach to local organisations. This has not been an easy thing to do, but it has been well done, and those who have responded have shown a fine civic spirit. The appeal has been linked with the diamond jubilee of the borough, the lack of any wider celebration of which is not the fault of the Mayor".

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Ashtray (Ref 34)

This is a chrome standing ashtray, which is engraved:

"Presented by the Bexhill Athletic Club 1963"



Ashtray (Ref 32)

A square electro-plated ashtray which is engraved:

"Presented by Sidley Bowls Club to the Bexhill Corporation"



Candelabra (Ref 22)

This item is an elegant pair of electro-plated silver three-light candelabra, standing 13ins high, plain gadroon. They were presented to the Mayor by Mrs F.J.Parsons in April 1962 and are engraved:

"Presented to the Corporation of Bexhill-on-Sea by F.J.Parsons Ltd, proprietors of the Bexhill-on-Sea Observer on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough. Alderman F.E.Cooper, Mayor"



Centre Piece (Ref 16)

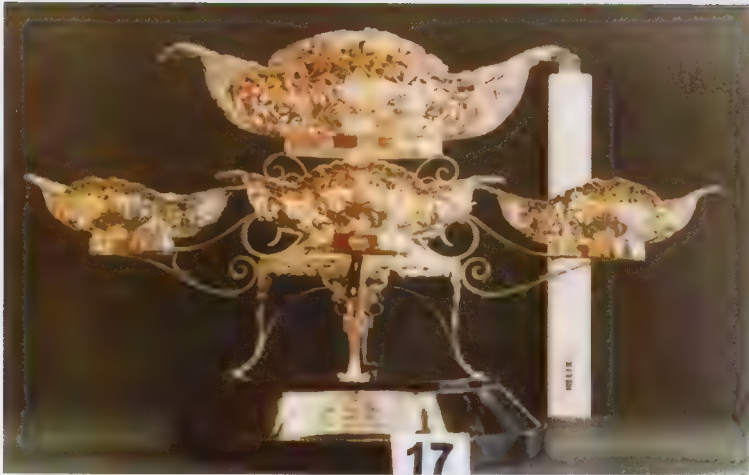
This is a silver Centre Piece on an oval base, 28 ins by 19½ ins, with silver figures of huntsmen, horses, hounds, stag etc made by Garrards of London in 1869. This statuette had been in the Gulliver family for many years. It depicts the death of William Rufus whilst out hunting in the New Forest and was presented to the Mayor in May 1962 by Mrs Charles Gulliver and her son Mr Clifford Gulliver in memory of Mr Charles Gulliver. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Borough of Bexhill on the occasions of its Diamond Jubilee by Mrs Charles Gulliver in memory of her husband, 1962"

Historical note – Charles Gulliver for many years was prominent in the theatre world, being at one time Chairman of Theatre Royal, Drury Lane and had in early life been the first Secretary of the Automobile Association. More locally, he was a generous benefactor of Sidley Cricket Club as well as other sporting and social organisations in the town. He opened a bowling green at Knowle Road on land, which he had previously acquired and in 1954 built the pavilion and club facilities for the indoor bowls.

In 1971, his son generously transferred the freehold of the land and buildings at Knowle Road, to Gulliver's Bowling Club.

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Centre Piece (Ref 17): This silver epergne consists of a centre dish and four smaller dishes, all pierced, on a central stand, pierced on four feet, with a wood plinth. Mr Bailey, President of Highwoods Golf Club, made the presentation in May 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented by Members of Highwoods (Bexhill) Golf Club on the Occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Bexhill Corporation 1962 (Alderman F.E. Cooper, Mayor)"



Cigar Box (Ref 37)

This is a silver cigar box, 6½ins x 4¾ins x 3¾ ins, hinged lid, wood lined. It was the first gift of plate in the Diamond Jubilee year and was presented in February 1962 by Mr J. Marchant, the Chairman. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Borough of Bexhill by the Sidley Community Association 1962"



Cigarette Box (Ref 38)

This is a small silver cigarette box 3¼ ins x 3¼ ins x 1¼ ins with a hinged lid, which was presented to the Mayor in July 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by members of Civil Defence 1962"

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Decanter & Glasses (Ref 53)

A cut glass decanter and inscribed silver label together with two glasses was presented to the Mayor by Col. D. Ballingall, the President of the Scottish Society in May 1962. The label is engraved:

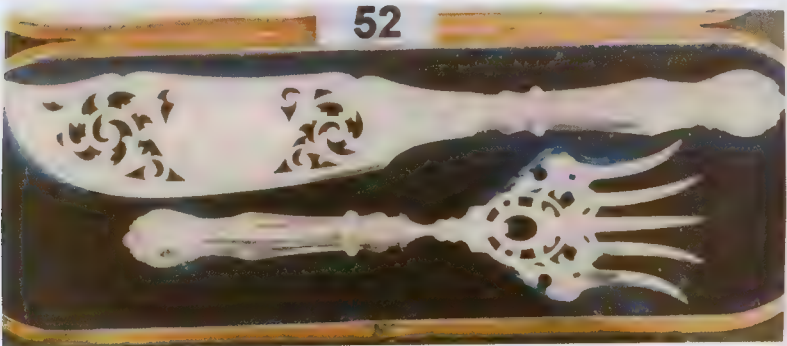
"Presented to the Borough of Bexhill by the Bexhill and District Scottish Society, Diamond Jubilee Year 1962"



Figures and Vase (Ref 55)

This item comprises two female figures and vase in bronze metal. The vase is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by Colonel T.G.Hornblower TD, DL, JP, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough of Bexhill 1962. Alderman F.E. Cooper, Mayor"



Fish Servers (Ref 52)

A pair of electro-plated silver fish servers with solid silver handles, pierced and presented in a case. The knife is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by the Cat Club, 1964"

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Goblet (Ref 50)

This item is described as being an antique Spanish silver and gilt beaker with an embossed decoration. No other marks are apparent.

It was presented in June 1962 to the Mayor by Mr J. Webster, the manager of the Playhouse Cinema in Western Road, Bexhill.



Ink Stand (Ref 39)

A fine silver ink stand with a single glass bottle and silver lid was presented to the Mayor in May 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation May 1962 by the Association of Bexhill Citizens"



Ink Well (Ref 40)

This gift is a circular silver ink well with a hinged lid. It was presented to the Mayor in 1962 and is engraved:

"Presented by the Egerton Park (Spartan) Bowling Club 1962"

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Table Lighter (Ref 35)

This item is an E.P. Queen Anne style table lighter made by Ronson, presented to the Mayor in May 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by the Inner Wheel Club of Bexhill"



Pen and Stand (Ref 41)

The Darby and Joan Club of Hollenden House presented a black biro pen and stand to the Mayor in April 1962. The stand is engraved:

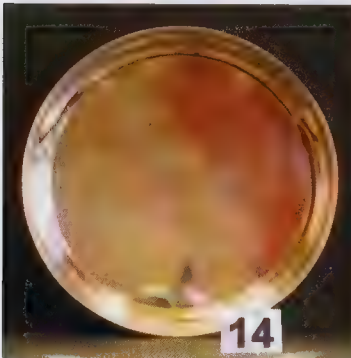
"Darby and Joan Club Hollenden House 1962"



Rose Bowls (Ref 30)

This pair of electroplated silver rose bowls was presented to the Mayor in September 1962 along with the silver salver (Ref 14) below. The bowls are engraved:

"Presented by the Rotary Club of Bexhill 1962"



Salver (Rotary Club) (Ref 14)

This is an electroplated silver salver presented to the Mayor in September 1962 with the pair of rose bowls (Ref 30) above. It is engraved:

"Presented by the members of the Rotary Club of Bexhill 1962"

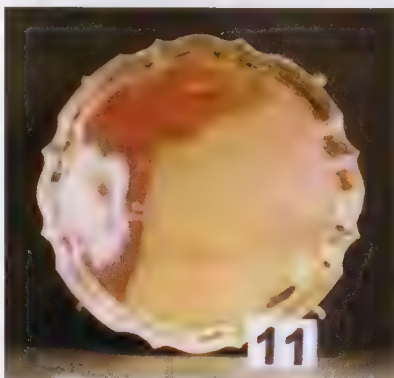
1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Salver (RAF Wartling) (Ref 10)

This silver 12in salver, plain Chippendale pattern with four feet was presented to the Mayor by the Commanding Officer of RAF Wartling in September 1962 following a parade through the Town to commemorate the Battle of Britain. It is engraved:

"To the Borough of Bexhill from R.A.F. Wartling 1962"



Salver (Bowling Club) (Ref 11)

This silver 10 ins plain salver, Chippendale style with four feet was presented to the Mayor in 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Corporation of Bexhill-on-Sea by the members of the Bexhill Bowling Club on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough, Alderman F.E. Cooper Mayor, 1962"



Salver (National Union of Printing) (Ref 12)

This is a 14in plain silver salver, Chippendale style with four scroll feet presented to the Mayor in October 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented to the Borough of Bexhill on the occasion of their Diamond Jubilee 1902 - 1962 by the National Union of Printing, Book-making and Paper Workers"

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Salver (Sailing Club) (Ref 13)

This is a handsome 14in electro-plated silver salver, ornate, engraved with a shell border and three feet, which was presented to the Mayor in April 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented by Bexhill Sailing Club 1962"



Soda Syphon Stand (Ref 31)

This is an electro-plated silver syphon stand, which was presented to the Mayor in November 1962. It is engraved:

"Presented by Gullivers Bowls Club 1962. Alderman F.E.Cooper Mayor"

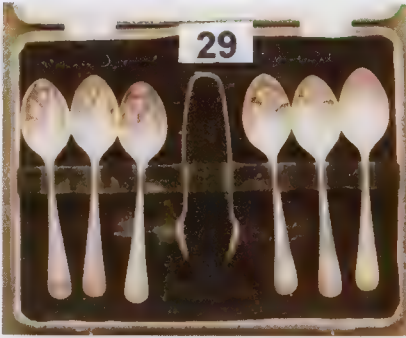


Tea Set (Ref 43)

This handsome electro-plated silver 'can shape' four-piece tea set with sugar tongs was presented to the Mayor in May 1962. The teapot is engraved:

"Presented by the Bexhill Hoteliers 1962"

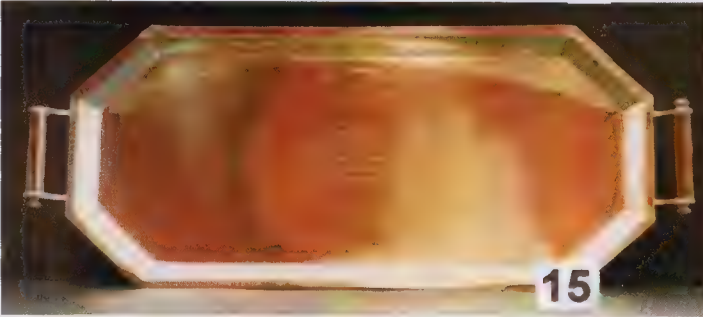
1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Teaspoon Set (Ref 29)

A set of six silver teaspoons and sugar tongs, which were presented to the Corporation by the Mayor, Alderman F. Cooper in 1963. They are simply engraved with the initials of Bexhill Corporation:

"B.C."



Tray (Hearts of Oak) (Ref 15)

A silver rectangular tray 20 ins x 9 ¼ ins, plain with two handles, which was presented to the Mayor. This is engraved:

"Presented by the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society to the Bexhill Corporation in the Diamond Jubilee year of it's incorporation 1962"



Trophy Cup (Coghlan) (Ref 21)

This is a silver trophy cup, which stands 8ins high and is without a plinth. It is of plain design with two handles and is engraved:

"Presented to the Bexhill Corporation by G.B. Coghlan 1962"

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts



Painting: South Cliff (Ref 70)

A watercolour painting of South Cliff as it looked in 1859 was the gift chosen by the Bexhill Labour Party as their contribution to the Mayor's Parlour. This is believed to be one of the earliest paintings of Bexhill by a well-known artist. It was painted by Thomas Leason Rowbotham who, at that time was a prominent artist who exhibited at the Royal Academy, Suffolk Street galleries in London and the Royal Institute of Water Colours.

"Presented by the Bexhill Labour Party to Alderman F. E. Cooper during his Mayoralty, for the Mayor's Parlour, May 1962"

Other items donated during Diamond Jubilee Year

Past Mayor's Badge (Ref 5) - This is shown in the section dealing with the Civic Regalia items.

Past Mayoress's Badge (Ref 6) – This is also shown in the section dealing with the Civic Regalia items.

Interesting Items from the estate of Dr Sunderland – The Bexhill Observer 5th May 1962 records that a number of "interesting items" have been presented from the estate of Dr. S. Sunderland, formerly of Collington Grove in Bexhill, who died in 1950. No further information has yet come to light on this but it is possible that these items include some of the unidentified gifts in the 'Other Civic and Historic Items' section.

Stolen Items - Also donated during Diamond Jubilee Year, were some of the items stolen in the "Town Hall Raid" in July 1982. Where it has been possible to identify these items, they have been detailed in the Appendix on page 45.

1962/63 Diamond Jubilee Gifts

The Mayor's Diamond Jubilee Appeal

The Mayor's first appeal letter via the Bexhill Observer – February 1962

From His Worship the Mayor

Sir – First of all may I be allowed to express my sincere thanks to you for your reference to my appeal for plate and other articles for the Mayor's Parlour. My intentions are two-fold: first that we should do something in this our 60th year as a borough, and secondly that we should commence now to bring our Parlour up to a standard of furnishing by gradual means to compare with other boroughs in the county.

I shall be most pleased to receive on behalf of the Borough of Bexhill private contributions to this appeal. It is also a wish of mine that some interested persons may feel inclined to institute a public subscription list (as has been done in the past) for a specific item, which could be decided on after discussion.

*Frank E. Cooper
Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall*

(Note – A similar letter was also sent direct to the major organisations, clubs and societies in the Town)

The Mayor's second appeal letter, also via the Bexhill Observer – April 1962

Following many requests, I have decided to broaden the basis of appeal for Plate for the Mayor's Parlour in this the Diamond Jubilee of the Borough of Bexhill. This will enable everyone to make a contribution, large or small, if they desire to do so.

To facilitate the response to this appeal, the 'Bexhill-on-Sea Observer' have kindly undertaken to act on my behalf and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for this very kind offer. I have, to date, received many gifts and I am confident that many townspeople will welcome this further opportunity of participating in this Diamond Jubilee effort.

In anticipation of your response, may I extend to all my appreciation of their support.

*Frank E. Cooper,
Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall*

Other Civic and Historic Items

Other Civic and Historic Items

There have been many occasions over the years, when specific gifts have been presented to the Council to mark particular occasions and events, or to mark and record different chapters of the Borough's history. These items are placed together as a group in the final section of this booklet.

The section begins with descriptions of civic and historic plate belonging to the Borough, which are not recorded in the first two sections of this booklet. Included within this are various items for which neither the donor nor the occasion for the donation has yet been ascertained. There is a definite possibility that some of these items were actually presented to the Council as part of the appeal for plate during the Diamond Jubilee year. If this is the case, then either the record of the donor has been mislaid or the donor wished to remain anonymous.

The second part of this section contains details of a variety of historical documents, photographs and miscellaneous items, which combine to form an essential element of the history of the Borough of Bexhill, and are a reminder of past events. For instance, the important role played by the residents of Bexhill in the Second World War can be glimpsed by referring to the artefacts related to 'H.M.S. Scourge', the sombre 'Roll of Honour' of civilians of Bexhill who lost their lives due to enemy action and the two 'War Savings' plaques.

There are references to some of the past and present benefactors of the town, names of the men and women who have helped forge Bexhill and have made it into the town it is today. Many such people have freely given a great deal of time and effort in this endeavour but only a handful of these, just ten in fact, seven men and three women, have been recognised by the privilege of being created an Honorary Freeman of the Borough. This signal honour has been so sparingly conferred that, with hindsight, it would not be difficult to suggest others eminent in local life who might well have been similarly acknowledged. Only one person in fact, the 9th Earl De La Warr, has ever declined such an honour and that was in 1936 under circumstances arising out of the controversy over the De La Warr Pavilion erected during his three mayoralities.

The historic items of regalia range from the handsome trophies presented by Major Mullens, who was Mayor in 1924/25, to the Bexhill 1935 Jubilee celebration medal, presented by Mr Mulliner, a Bexhill resident, pioneer motorist and a founder member of the Royal Automobile Club.

Elsewhere in this booklet are the records of the names of the many Mayors who have served their terms of Office either in the service of the former Bexhill Borough or currently with the Bexhill Charter Trustees.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Charter Goblet (Ref 88)

A silver 1200th Centenary Charter goblet, standing 4 ½ ins high and without a plinth.

Historical note – In AD 772, King Offa II of Mercia, who had conquered the South Saxons, granted a Charter to found and endow a church in Bexhill. The town celebrated this event in various ways with 1200th centenary celebrations. Rother DC purchased a limited range of commemorative items for sale. This goblet is one that remained unsold and which was subsequently donated to the Charter Trustees.



Cigar Box 1909 (Ref 36)

A silver cigar box, measuring 5 ¼ ins x 1 ¾ ins, cedar wood lined and with an engraved crest. It is engraved:

"Xmas 1909"

It has not been possible to identify either the significance of the date, nor the occasion for the donation.



Coffee Pot (Ref 44)

This item is a handsome electro-plated silver coffee pot, which is engraved and fluted.

No records have been found which show any details of the donor, the date or the event.

Other Civic and Historic Items

82



Cooden Beach Tennis Trophy (Ref 82)

This is the Cooden Beach tennis championship trophy for 1982. Mr P.J. Fynmore, who won this trophy, presented it to the Town Mayor during an official visit to the Club. It is engraved:

"Cooden Beach Tennis Champion 1982"

48



Dirk & Sheath (Ref 48)

A silver mounted dirk in sheath

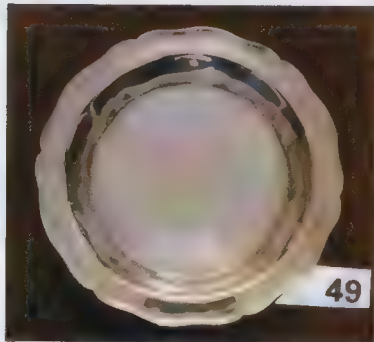
The background on this item needs further research as no history has yet come to light.

Dish (Ref 49)

The dish (below) is described as a foreign silver round dish, no mark, 12ozs, with fancy edge

No history has yet come to light on the background to this item.

49



47



Letter Opener (Ref 47)

This is a fine silver mounted ivory letter opener, which, despite research, no history has yet come to light.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Kettle on stand (Ref 45)

This is an electro-plated silver Kettle on stand with its own heating lamp. It is fluted and embossed but is not engraved.

No information has yet been found which shows either the donor or the occasion when the donation was made.



Loving Cup (Smugglers) (Ref 18)

This is a pewter three-handled loving cup, which is engraved:

"Presented by the Mayor and Corporation to the Smugglers of Little Common, Charter Day 1927 Bexhill-on-Sea"

Bexhill Corporation presented this cup to the Smugglers of Little Common following their display, which formed part of the 1927 Charter Day celebrations. At some later stage, probably when the Smugglers disbanded, this cup was presented back to the Corporation.

Historical note -The Bexhill Observer in 1927 carried an account of the Charter Day celebrations, which describes the scene by the Little Common Smugglers. *"The whole thing was exceedingly well done, being presented by no fewer than 68 characters, who were dressed and 'made up' with a fine eye for effect. Included also were a number of ponies, a horse and a four wheeled cart piled high with contraband and two pack dogs carrying parcels of tobacco"*. The pageant followed a complete story about smugglers and the report concluded that the episode reflected credit on Little Common as a village and also on those responsible for its execution. It also mentioned that the Little Common Smugglers would be maintained as one of the institutions of the village and that a yearly parade would probably be made.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Loving Cup (Ref 19)

This is a limited edition Crown Staffordshire Loving Cup (number 51) with two lion handles, produced to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953.

This cup was presented to the Corporation by C.L. Danks esq, a private citizen from Bedford Avenue, Bexhill, in 1953.



Jubilee Medal (Ref 58)

This is a King George V Jubilee Celebration medal: Bexhill-on-Sea, which was presented to the Corporation, by H.J.Mulliner Esq, a well-known pioneer motorist.

Historical note – The Bexhill Silver Jubilee medal was produced for the town's Silver Jubilee Celebrations week, May 5th to 12th 1935. These were sold to help local charities. There were four types, which were sold for 3d, 6d, 1s and 2/6d. This is one of the 'expensive' types. Overall, Messrs. J.L.Holbrook, 40 Sea Road, Bexhill supplied 20,000 medals of the four types, which were specially designed for the Bexhill Celebration Committee.



Pendant (Ref 7)

A beautiful diamond set pendant mounted in platinum with a platinum chain, lace pattern pendant with bow.

This was apparently donated by one of the former lady Mayors but no further information has come to light on the donor or the occasion.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Medallion (Ref 56)

This is a medallion in a presentation case engraved:

*"Worshipful Company of Founders
1910"*



Paperweight (Ref 57)

This is a metal paperweight (see below for further details) engraved:

*"Worshipful Company of Founders
1965"*



Historical note – Mr Henry Young was one of Bexhill's first Aldermen. He came to the town in 1880, built "Cooden Mount" in 1893 and was prominent in public life for many years. He was an engineer and head of the famous London Iron Works. He introduced great improvements to the sewerage and sanitation of Bexhill and Little Common. He was a Past Master of the Mystery of Founders and presented the above medallion (Ref 56) to the Council in 1910.

His son, Douglas S. Young, who also lived at Cooden Mount, was similarly an engineer and also Past Master of the Mystery of Founders. The spoon commemorates 600 years of the Founders Company of the City of London and all Wardens, Assistants and Liverymen were presented with a replica spoon. Douglas Young presented his silver spoon (Ref 51) together with the stamped paperweight (Ref 57) to the Bexhill Corporation in 1965.

Spoon, Silver Reproduction (Ref 51)

This silver reproduction spoon was the actual spoon which was presented to Douglas S. Young by the Mystery of Founders of the City of London at the 600 year celebration.

Other Civic and Historic Items

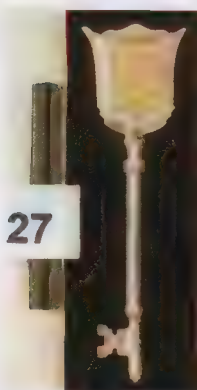


Presentation Key (Egerton Park) (Ref 26)

A silver and enamel presentation key with the Bexhill Coat of Arms engraved:

"Borough of Bexhill to commemorate the opening of Egerton Park extension by the Right Honourable Sir W. Vaughan Morgan, Bart, Lord Mayor of London – 21 July 1906"

Historical note: It was a great honour for Bexhill to have Egerton Park opened by such a distinguished person as the Lord Mayor of London. Whilst at Bexhill for the ceremony, the Lord Mayor stayed at the Metropole Hotel and the Bexhill Observer carried a picture of the procession leaving the hotel for the opening ceremony. This key is a silver replica of the gold key, which was given to the Lord Mayor of London to mark this occasion.



Presentation Key (Hearts of Oak) (Ref 27)

Silver presentation key, 5 ins, engraved:

"On the occasion of the opening of the Hearts of Oak Convalescent Home on 10 December 1955"



Presentation Key (Post Office)(Ref 28)

Silver gilt presentation key, 5ins, engraved:

"To commemorate the opening of the new Post Office at Bexhill-on-Sea on 14 November 1931. Presented to Mrs Alderman Meads, JP. Mayor of Bexhill-on-Sea by Mr R. J. Barwick Builders and Contractors. Dover"

Other Civic and Historic Items



Salver (Maharajah of Cooch Behar) (Ref 9)

This is a very handsome 20ct gold salver, 8½ ins diameter, with a plain design. It is engraved:

"In memoriam His Highness Maharajah Sir Nripendra Narayan Bhup Bahadur of Cooch Behar"

Historical Note -The Maharajah and his wife had come to England for the coronation of King George V in June 1911. When he was taken ill, he rented No 22 Marina Court Avenue, in which to seek recuperation, and other houses were occupied by his entourage. He died on 18th September 1911, whilst in Bexhill, and an impressive funeral procession took place in the Town. Flags were at half-mast and the gun carriage was drawn by the 2nd Home Counties Field Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. His ashes were subsequently taken back to his home town of Cooch Behar, a town in north east India, not far from Calcutta.

The family later presented the town with this magnificent gold engraved plate together with the sum of £100 to install a commemorative fountain. This was sited above the Colonnade and opened in 1913 by HH Jitendra Narayan, his second son. In 1934, the fountain was moved due to the construction of the De La Warr Pavilion and re-sited in Egerton Park. By 1963, the structure was found to have deteriorated. Having been deemed unsafe, it was moved to the Borough cemetery although its final whereabouts are now unknown.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Tea Set, China (Ref 42)

A 21-piece Minton Bone China tea set consisting of six cups, six saucers, six tea plates, one bread & butter plate, sugar bowl and milk jug.

It has not yet been possible to identify either the donor or the occasion for this gift. It is possibly connected with the Diamond Jubilee year but could have been purchased directly by the Council at some time for the Mayor's Parlour.



Trumpets (Ref 23)

Two silver-plated trumpets by Hawkes & Son, London with pennants of the High Sheriff of Sussex

"Presented to the Borough of Bexhill by W.H. Mullens, DL, High Sheriff of Sussex 1916-1917"



Wall Plate (Ref 80)

This plate was presented to the Town Mayor in October 1984 following a visit to Merris, in France, a town with which Bexhill had a 'friendship accord' for many years.

Other Civic and Historic Items



**Trophy Cup
(Mullens) (Ref 20)**

This is a large silver lidded cup on a plinth, with two handles and weighing a staggering 112 ozs. It is engraved:

*"Presented to the
Mayor and
Corporation by Cllr.
Major Mullens JP. DL.
1926"*

This magnificent cup is part of the display usually brought out for the annual Mayor-making ceremony.



Trophy Cup (Mullens garden Cup) (Ref 87)

A silver trophy cup, 11½ ins high on a plinth and having a lid. It is engraved:

*"Borough of Bexhill, Council Housing
Schemes, Presented by Major W.H.
Mullens JP DL as an award for the best
garden cultivated by an amateur gardener"*

As the inscription shows, this cup was used as a trophy for the best-kept council house garden in the Borough and is inscribed with the names of the winners from 1929 onwards.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Trowel (Hospital Chapel) (Ref 25)

This item is an electro-plated silver presentation trowel with ivory handle and the history becomes apparent from the engraving, which states:

"Presented to His Worship the Mayor of Bexhill, Cllr Mrs J.O. Alexander JP at the stone laying ceremony of the Hospital Chapel 1954"



Trowel (Town Hall Extension) (Ref 24)

This item is a silver presentation trowel with a mother of pearl handle and the history becomes apparent from the engraving:

"Lord Brassey G.C.B., Mayor. Trowel used by Lord Buckhurst on laying commemoration stone Town Hall extension Bexhill – 16 March 1908"

Historical note – Also used at the ceremony for the Town Hall extension was the gavel, which had been made from the Old Town Walnut tree, the stump of which was removed in 1921.



Wine Glass, Coronation (Ref 54)

A large wine glass engraved for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

This wine glass is a memorabilia item produced for the Coronation but it has not been possible to identify the source of the donation.

Other Civic and Historic Items

Armorial Bearings (Ref 72)

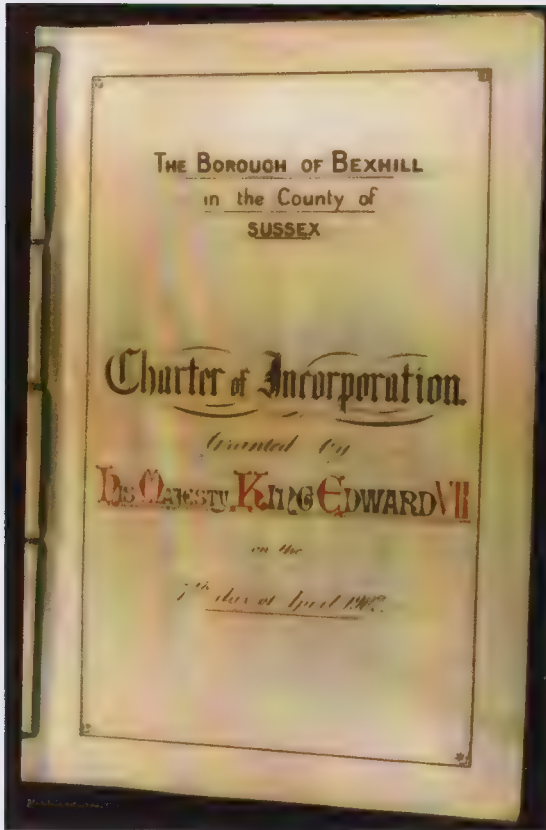


Currently hanging in the former Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall, is a framed picture of the Armorial Bearings of the Lords of the Manor of Bexhill, which combine to form the history of the town. The Armorial Bearings illustrated are (L to R) "Eu", "The See of Chichester", "Thomas Sackville Count of Dorset Baron Buckhurst" and "The Earl De La Warr".

Historical note – In August 1906, Alderman Young, the Deputy Mayor, described the history of the Coat of Arms associated with Bexhill as follows.

At the time of the Conquest (1066) and for several centuries before, Bexhill (then referred to as Bexleii) was attached to the Bishopric of Selsey (since removed to Chichester). In 1070, it was seized by John, Earl of Eu, one of the followers of William and was subsequently restored by King Stephen to the Bishops of Chichester. During the period between 1148 and 1535, the Bishops of Chichester frequently resided at Bexhill at their Manor House, or Palace. In 1535, the Manor of 'Bexle' was seized by Henry VIII, and became the property of the Crown. In 1570, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Lord Buckhurst (Thomas Sackville), the Councillor of the Queen and Lord High Treasurer of England, to whose descendants it still belongs, the Manor and House being now in the possession of Viscount Cantelupe (Gilbert George Reginald Sackville) and inhabited by him since its restoration in 1892. The Sackvilles belong to one of the families, which came over with the Conqueror, in the person of Herbrand de Salchevilla, being the seventh of his line then known in history. The titles of De La Warr, Buckhurst and Dorset emanate from the Sackville family. To Sir Roger De La Warr and Sir Thomas Pelham, two Sussex knights, King John of France surrendered his sword at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. From the foregoing data, it will be seen how desirable and appropriate it was to combine the arms of the De La Warrs with the See of Chichester, and for which purpose Bishop Durnford has, through Sir Robert Raper, kindly sent the drawing of the arms of the See, copied from an old picture in his possession.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Charter of Incorporation (Ref 60)

This is the Charter of Incorporation, which incorporates the former Urban District of Bexhill as a Borough and was granted by King Edward VII. The Warrant is given under the King's sign by Muir Mackenzie and is Sealed.

Historical note – The Charter was granted, following a petition by 'certain inhabitant householders to her late Majesty, Queen Victoria. The Bexhill Incorporation Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Earl De La Warr and with other civic dignitaries, organised the petition. This was referred to a Committee of the Privy Council and notice was published in the London Gazette, etc. Gaining Borough status was a major milestone for Bexhill and a source of great pride for all. The Charter was received and read on the steps of the Town Hall on 21st May 1902 in front of a packed Town Hall Square audience. This was followed by the firing of maroons, a half-mile long procession and an evening banquet at the Kursaal.

Other Civic and Historical Items

Roll of Honorary Freemen (Ref 63)

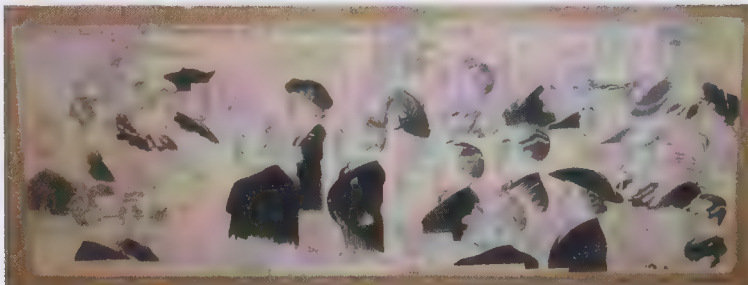
The Roll of Honorary Freemen record book shows that ten people have received the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Bexhill. Their names are: -

28 th October 1907	The Rt. Hon. Lord Brassey GCB
9 th March 1920	John Alexander Paton Esq, JP
15 th January 1943	William Nicolson Cuthbert JP
5 th March 1952	Mrs Christina Isabella Meads, MBE, JP
5 th March 1952	Ernest William Cantley Bowrey
5 th March 1952	Richard Cecil Sewell
29 th January 1958	Frances Henrietta Burrows
27 th September 1962	Claude Pycroft
2 nd October 1968	Joyce Oliver Alexander
2 nd October 1968	Harry Riley



Certificate of Freedom (Ref 79)

This is the original illuminated Certificate of Freedom, which was presented to Mr John A. Paton in March 1920. This shows that the Freedom was granted under the Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act 1885. Councillor C.C. Carpenter, who was Mayor in 1983/84, subsequently presented this certificate back to the Council at the conclusion of his term of office.



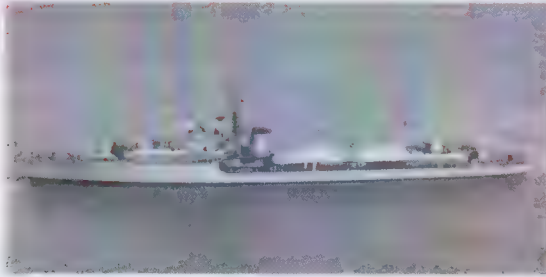
Freedom of the Borough: Drawing (Ref 74)

This is an original cartoon drawn by 'Mac', a political cartoonist for the national press. It depicts the people involved with the triple Freedom of the Borough celebration on 5th March 1952 for Mrs C.I. Meads, Mr E. Bowrey and Mr R. Sewell. The Bexhill Observer presented this drawing to the Council.

Historical note - Freedom of the Borough: The granting of an Honorary Freedom is the highest honour that can be awarded by a Borough to any individual or corporate body. There are no statutory privileges but locally the Freemen receive invitations to all major civic events.

Other Civic and Historic Items

Historic note – HMS Scourge: In 1942, the people of Bexhill 'adopted' HMS Scourge, one of the 23rd Destroyer Flotilla, the 'S' boats, of the World War II Arctic Convoys. To commemorate the occasion, they presented her with a plaque, which was placed in the ship's longroom. In return, the Corporation was presented with a photograph of the ship (Ref 86) and later the 'cat o' nine tails' ship's crest (Ref 85). After the war, the ship was sold to Holland and renamed Hr. Ms. Evertson. Eventually, in 1962, after many years excellent service, the ship was scrapped. Some 30 years later, the relative of one of the crewmen returned the plaque to the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs E. Baker.



H.M.S. Scourge: Photograph (Ref 86)

This is a framed photograph of the ship 'adopted' by the people of Bexhill. The brass plate inscription states: *"Presented by the Commissioners of the Admiralty to Bexhill-on-Sea to commemorate the adoption of H.M.S. Scourge during War-Ship Week March 14 1942".*



H.M.S. Scourge: Ship's crest (Ref 85)

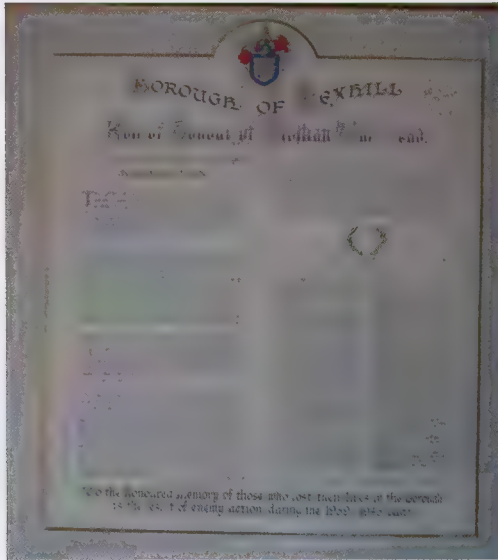
The 'Cat o' Nine Tails' crest. The wording on the inscription plate is the same as on the photograph.



H.M.S. Scourge: Plaque (Ref 64)

The wooden plaque, carved with Bexhill's Coat of Arms, originally presented by the towns people of Bexhill and later returned.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Roll of Honour of Civilian War Dead (Ref 62)

This "Roll of Honour", compiled by the Imperial War Graves Commission, commemorates the names and details of the 21 civilian citizens of Bexhill who lost their lives as a result of enemy action during the 2nd World War.



War Savings Plaques (Ref 65)

The Citizens of Bexhill were awarded two different plaques above for their efforts in the nationally sponsored War Savings campaigns of 1944 and 1945.

Other Civic and Historical Items

Pictures & Portraits



Lt Col A. Sansom: Photograph (Ref 78)

This framed photograph is of Lt Col A. Sansom who was killed near Arras on 5th July 1917 whilst serving in the VII Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. As well as being principal of Devonshire House School in Hastings Road and Chairman of the Conservative and Unionist Party, he had been elected to the Council in 1912. Despite this fairly short period of municipal service, he was considered to have been one of the best-known and esteemed public figures in the town and many important figures held him in high regard and spoke glowingly in his obituary. His widow was later elected to the Council in 1921 and became Bexhill's first woman magistrate.



Bexhill UDC Canvass: Painting (Ref 73)

The Charter Trustees retain this 3 feet square of painted canvas, which shows the emblems including the Coats of Arms used by the former Bexhill Urban District Council. An archive photograph shows that this originally hung in the original Council Chamber at the Town Hall before the 1906 extension, in what is now the Committee Room.



A.S.Brook: Engraving (Ref 69)

This is a framed artist's first proof for an engraving of Arthur Sawyer Brook esq. The artist is Mr H. Hill of Benyon & Co, Fine Art publishers and engravers of Cheltenham and this proof has been personally signed by Mr A.S.Brook. Arthur Sawyer Brook was known as the 'Squire of Bexhill' and was Master of the Bexhill Harriers. He died in 1898.

Other Civic and Historic Items



Shield: Bexhill Borough Council (Ref 83)

This is a large painted embossed shield on wood depicting the Borough Coat of Arms. The original purpose that this actual shield served is not recorded.



Mace: Photograph (Ref 77)

This item is a 'formal' framed photograph of the mace taken in 1906 by Skinner & Co., the manufacturers. As is shown on the card mounting, the firm describe themselves as *'Manufacturing Goldsmiths and Silversmiths of 5 & 6 Orchard Street, London W'*. This photograph is currently in storage at the Town Hall.



Wig, Town Clerk (Ref 84)

Edward Smith was a highly regarded and long serving Town Clerk of Bexhill from June 1938 until May 1963. He was the forth of only five Town Clerks who served the Bexhill Borough. The nature of his office meant that he had to wear a wig at all official functions and at Council meetings. This wig has been retained as part of the town memorabilia along with the original black tin box bearing his name.

Photograph of Mayors: Bexhill Charter Year (Ref 75)

There is a large framed photograph of all the Mayors who attended the Bexhill Charter Celebrations in 1952. This hangs permanently in the Members Room at the Town Hall but is too big for a reproduction to be included in this booklet.

Town Mayors of Bexhill



The names of the Town Mayors of the Bexhill Charter Trustees since they were formed in 1974 are recorded on display boards at the Town Hall. To date, the names recorded are shown below.

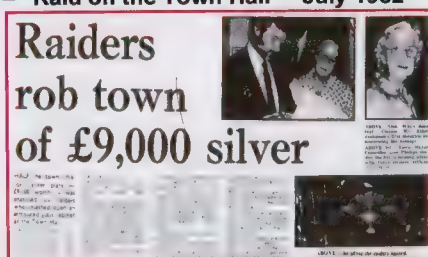
Town Mayors of Bexhill 1974/75 to 2006/07			
Year	Name	Year	Name
1974/75	E. Haynes	1994/95	J. McEwan
1975/76	Mrs E. Kimber	1995/96	M.J. Kenward
1976/77	C.C. Carpenter	1996/97	Mrs P. Bullock
1977/78	I. A. Brampton	1997/98	W.H. Clements
1978/79	E. Waite	1998/99	Mrs V.M. Higgins
1979/80	Mrs L. Kimber	1999/00	Mrs H.R. Bridger
1980/81	L. Wells	2000/01	C.C. Clark
1981/82	Mrs E. E. Armstrong	2001/02	Mrs J.P. Gadd
1982/83	Mrs P.L. Phillips	2002/03	P. Fairhurst
1983/84	C.C. Carpenter	2003/04	Mrs D.C. Williams
1984/85	A.S.J. Stevens	2004/05	S.H. Earl
1985/86	J.L. Nichols	2005/06	Mrs J.M. Hughes
1986/86	L.A.W. Rashbrook	2006/07	E. A.P. Armstrong
1987/88	C. Butchers		
1988/89	Mrs M.D. Traice		
1989/90	M. Bell		
1990/91	D.G. Houghton		
1991/92	Mrs J.M. Wicks		
1992/93	Mrs E.F.R. Baker		
1993/94	B. Kentfield		

Appendix

(a) List of names and dates of the Bexhill Mayors, which were engraved on the 19 gold badges of the original Mayor's Chain.

1902/03 Ebenezer Howard	1918/20 George Herbert Gray
1903/05 Gilbert Geo. Reginald, Earl De La Warr	1920/21 James Gibb
1905/06 Daniel Mayer	1921/22 Arthur George Wells
1906/07 James Mackey Glover	1922/23 Ronald Gibb C.B.E.
1907/08 Thomas Baron Brassey	1923/24 Ernest William Bowrey
1908/09 Hon. Thos. Allnut Brassey	1924/25 Richard Cecil Sewell
1909/11 John Alexander Paton	1925/26 Frank Bauser Bending
1911/14 Daniel Mayer	1926/27 Sir Ernest Birch K.C.M.G.
1914/16 Frank Bond	1927/28 William Herbert Mullens
1916/18 Joseph Barker Wall	D.L., J.P.

(b) Stolen Items – “Raid on the Town Hall” - July 1982



As reported in the Bexhill-on-Sea Observer 24th July 1982: “only weeks after the Charter Trustees paid £1,126 for two security cabinets, half the town’s historic silver plate was snatched by raiders.” Police believed that the raiders either hid in the building after a meeting or went out a rear fire escape and in through a window. Despite intensive police search, which included draining Egerton Park Lake, the historic silver items listed below were never recovered.

- Square silver ashtray, presented by Bexhill R.A.F.A. (1962/63 Diamond Jubilee gift)
- Square silver ashtray with E.T. border, presented by Civil Defence (1962/63 Diamond Jubilee gift)
- Pair of silver goblets, plain reproduction gilt inside, in case presented by John Bray & Sons (1962/63 Diamond Jubilee gift)
- Electro-plated two-handled loving cup with glass base
- Georgian silver lidded tankard, London 1762, “The Lumpkin Tankard”, 24ozs by Francis Crump (1962/63 Diamond Jubilee gift - C. Gulliver)
- Foreign silver, large ornate tankard style jug, 16ins, ornate embossed, four feet, 91ozs
- Pair silver Café Au Lait pots, reproduction Georgian by J.B.C. 40 ozs,
- Walnut silver mounted gavel, engraved “Town Hall extension, 1908”
- Silver armada dish 5 ¾ ins, Presented by the Bexhill Townswomen’s Guild 1962 (1962/63 Diamond Jubilee gift)
- Silver shallow two-handled sweet dish, plain on foot
- Silver frame 9 ¾ ins x 11 ½ ins, containing the Council Prayer.

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References and Sources used in this research

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- **Bexhill-on-Sea Observer** – Various Years: Microfilm copies held at Bexhill Library
- **Bexhill Charter Trustees** - Archives & Files held at Bexhill Town Hall
- **Bexhill Museum** – Archives & Records (*My thanks are extended to Julian Porter and the staff of Bexhill Museum for their knowledge and advice.*)



This booklet has been produced to commemorate the centenary of the receipt by Bexhill Borough of its official Coat of Arms in 1907. In addition, it sets out to provide a comprehensive record and history of the many and varied items of Civic Regalia and Plate held by the Bexhill Charter Trustees.